

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 15, and continuing to page 17, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

*A1* The collecting device body 29, as shown in Fig. 3 (see also Fig. 2), is comprised of a collecting-device operating section 31, a collecting-device storage section 32, a collecting-device interface 33 and a collecting-device modem 34. ~~The~~ The collecting-device storage section 32 and the collecting-device interface 33 are connected to the collecting-device operating section 31, while the output device 6, the collecting-device monitor 30 and the collecting-device modem 34 are connected to the collecting-device interface 33. Further, the communication lines 1, 28 are connected to the collecting-device modem 34. The operating-state information collecting device 2 is connected to each of the management center 11 and the thermal-equipment controller 10 via the two communication lines 1, 28. It is noted that the collecting-device modem 34 is assumed to be a known modem in this embodiment. Further, the collecting device body 29 is assumed to be able to receive e-mails.